REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner objects to the abstract arguing that it is not a single paragraph and that it contains more than 150 words. The applicants respectively traverse.

The abstract contains 127 words which, of course, is below the suggested 150 word maximum. With respect to the objection of multiple paragraphs, the abstract comprises a single paragraph. The first sentence of the abstract is simply formatted to segregate the steps of the method into an easy-to-read configuration. The Examiner will note that this is a single sentence beginning with the word "Firm" (of which the first letter is capitalized) and ending with a period (the only period in the sentence). The second sentence (which begins with "The pipe . . .") is not indented, i.e., it starts at the left margin, and as such, it continues the paragraph. To start a new paragraph, this second sentence would need to be indented from the left margin.

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this basis of objection, and then to withdraw it.

In paragraph 4 of the Detailed Action, Claims 1-12, all of the Claims, are rejected as obvious Kurzinger et al. (USP 6,303,175) in combination with Moore (USP 4,567,055). The Examiner argues that Kurzinger et al. teach a gelled aquatic fish food, but the Examiner acknowledges that they do not teach the specifics of an extruder, much less an extruder that subjects the fish food to cooling. However, the Examiner also argues that Moore teaches extruding a starch containing gel confection, and thus concludes that combining the teaching of Kurzinger et al. with Moore to provide a method of making a firm, flexible animal feed gel using

an extruder would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Again, the Applicants respectively traverse.

The Applicants begin with the observation that their use of the words "extrusion", "extruding" and the like in the title and specification apparently have caused confusion for the Examiner in her examination of the claims. "Extrude" and its various derivatives simply mean, according to the Second College Edition of The American Heritage Dictionary, Houghton Mifflin Company (1985), "to push or thrust out". It does not require the use of a conventional extruder, i.e., a barrel fitted with at least one internal screw, such as those taught in Kurzinger et al. and Moore. In an effort to help clarify this point, the Applicants have amended the title of their application to remove the word "Extrusion".

The Applicants next note that the combined teachings of Kurzinger et al. and Moore require the use of a conventional extruder, i.e, a barrel equipped with one or more extruder screws. Conventional extruders, particularly those of Kurzinger et al and Moore, are designed to process material that is predominantly solid. The feed composition of the present invention is predominately water; a conventional extruder will work poorly at best in the instant invention. The screws of conventional extruders simply will not generate the pressure necessary to effectively, much less efficiently, push the liquid animal feed through and from the pipe, especially before the feed has cooled to a gel consistency.

The Applicants further note that in stark contrast, the apparatus of their invention is a pipe. The normal and ordinary meaning of "pipe" (again according to the Second College Edition of The American Heritage Dictionary) is "a hollow cylinder or tubular conveyance for a

fluid or gas." The pipe of the present invention is not equipped with an extruder screw, and nothing in the specification teaches or suggests otherwise.. The specification and examples teach that the liquid animal feed moves through the pipe through the action of a pump. The feed is mostly water (in the examples, the feed comprises 75 weight percent water) and as such, it is not "worked" within the pipe as the feed of Kurzinger et al and Moore is worked within their extruders. Rather, it simply moves through the pipe cooling as it proceeds from inlet to outlet. The difference between the pipe of the instant invention and the extruders of the cited art is even more pronounced in the embodiment of Claim 9 in which the pipe is coiled.

Moreover, the method of the instant invention for making the firm, flexible animal feed gel requires withdrawing liquid animal feed from a heated vat and transferring it into a pipe for cooling. Nothing in either Kurzinger or Moore alone or in combination with one another suggests these steps. The force or action necessary to move the liquid animal feed through the pipe is provided by a pump, not an extruder screw.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this basis of rejection and then to withdraw it.

New Claims 13 and 14 further describe the apparatus of Claim 7 as in fluid communication with a heated vat and comprising a pump for transferring the liquid animal feed from the vat to the inlet end of the pipe. Support is found in the specification at page 3, lines 10-11. New Claims 15 and 16 further describe the method of Claim 1, and include the transfer of the liquid animal feed from a heated vat to the pipe through the action of a pump and a use of a cooling jacket to cool the animal feed as it passes through the pipe, respectively.

Support for the transfer of the liquid animal feed from the vat to the pipe is found at page 3, lines 10-11, and support for the cooling jacket found is at page 6, lines 18-21. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 is also found at page 3, lines 10-11. Support for the get comprising predominantly water is found in the specification at page 3, line 6, and in the examples. Since the total number of Claims remains under twenty and only dependent claims have been added, no fee is due for these amendments.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to give early and favorable consideration to this Response and then to allow the claims and forward the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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